



**Testimony  
Betsy Gara  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the Planning & Development Committee  
March 11, 2016**

**OPPOSE – SB-424, AN ACT CONCERNING REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR CERTAIN COMPANIES.**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) opposes **SB-424**, which would create yet another local property tax exemption, further eroding scarce municipal revenues.

The bill would authorize municipalities to adopt a property tax abatement for 80% of the taxes assessed on the real and personal property of cyber security, data, incubator and start-up companies during the first two tax years of such companies' operation.

Given the ongoing fiscal challenges facing municipalities, the state must refrain from mandating additional property tax exemptions, including municipal option tax exemptions, which undermine the ability of towns to provide critical programs and services to residents.

Property taxpayers already shoulder the burden for funding education, public safety, transportation and other local services. It is unfair to enact legislation that will shift more of the burden onto the backs of other property taxpayers, such as homeowners and businesses.

COST urges lawmakers to oppose SB-424.